

From: Rick Legge
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 7:02pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to express my strong opposition to settlement of the Microsoft Antitrust case because the reasons outlined below.

1.. Microsoft, through their unfair marketing and promotion tactics have successfully established their operating systems and office suite applications as de facto standards throughout the United States, and world business communities.

2.. Because of the pervasive use of these operating systems and applications there is no longer a viable free market survival opportunity for competing operating systems or applications.

3.. This lack of survivable opportunity has created and is perpetuating a market so completely dominated by one technology and one company that there no longer exists free choice in the market place.

4.. This lack of survivable opportunity effectively prevents research and development of better, more advanced, more efficient, and more reliable operating systems and applications and this deprives our nation and the world of progress.

5.. Microsoft's predatory practices perpetuate their complete dominance by failing to seamlessly exchange information with competing applications and operating systems even though the competitors are able to seamlessly exchange information with the Microsoft products.

6.. This barrier to seamless interchange and communication creates an onerous obstacle to any individual or business that would otherwise vote for another application or operating system in the free market by purchasing other manufacturer's products

7.. Market dominance, such as the dominance enjoyed by Microsoft, enables the company (Microsoft) to market products to our nation and the world that are flawed and defective beyond reasonable standards and that same dominance robs the consumer of his/her ability to "vote" for alternatives by purchasing and using alternative software.

The free market, and the United States Federal Government would not allow the manufacture and sale of an automobile, or pacemaker, or simple power tool or kitchen appliance that periodically stopped functioning and needed to be "re-booted". Yet Microsoft operating systems and software, which unquestionably have this unacceptable characteristic, are allowed by the lack of viable free market survival opportunity and their complete dominance of their market to be widely used in Public Safety dispatch and communications systems, the nation's public switched telephone network (PSTN), medical emergency and delivery systems, as well as other systems that directly impact public health and welfare and defense of the nation. More reliable and efficient alternatives are unavailable because one company completely controls such a dominant share of this market that innovation, improvement and progress are prevented. This absence of choice is as un-American as a single telephone company, or a single presidential candidate on the ballot.

Our trust is in you, the people of The Department of Justice, to do the right thing with this difficult problem and create an environment that fosters progress.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Legge Jr.
231 River Village Drive
DeBary, Florida 32713

386-753-1105

CC: Attorney Florida State,microsoftcomments@doj.ca.go...